



RAPPAHANNOCK RIVER YACHT CLUB

IRVINGTON, VA 22480

December 2020

THE HEADWAY

RRYC 2020 Annual Meeting Zooms Through Covid Concerns

By Tom Wicks



Photo by Tom Wicks

2021 Officers Safely Distanced. L-R Rear Commodore Ken Vincent, Commodore Charles Springett, Treasurer Jesse Swartz, CPA, Secretary Sue Kirkbride, and Vice Commodore Ian Ormesher.

Amid resurgent concerns with COVID, the Club's annual meeting was completed successfully by holding it in two venues, a physical and a virtual. The first, attended primarily by masked members of the BOD, was held in the clubhouse. The second venue was a Zoom meeting, hosted by Joan and Brad Perry (which featured a photo montage and lively conversation among about 45 member households in the run-up, while the BOD concluded its meeting).

(continued on page 6)

RAPPAHANNOCK RIVER YACHT CLUB

FLAG OFFICERS

Commodore - Charles Springett

Email: cnspringett@gmail.com

Vice Commodore – Ian Ormesher

Email: ian.ormesher@cox.net

Rear Commodore - Ken Vincent

Email: ken.vincent10@gmail.com

Treasurer - Jesse Swartz, CPA

email jkswartzcap@gmail.com

Secretary - Sue Kirkbride

gbkirk@earthlink.net

DIRECTORS

Past Commodore - Danielle Kuper

Email: sistikuper@gmail.com

Director - Leslie Damon

Email: nomadles@aol.com

Director - Tom Linville

Email: tsailor@aol.com

Director - Michelle Ritter

Email: emichelleritter@gmail.com

Director - Glenn Solt

Email: glenn.solt@gmail.com

Director - Samantha Van Saun

Email: samantha_vfn@yahoo.com

Director - Tom Wicks

Email: marinertom@aol.com

Club Manager - Kent White



Comments from the Commodore

By Charles Springett

- It is an honor and a privilege to serve you all as Commodore of RRYC for the coming year. I will do my very best justify the confidence you have placed in me; it is a responsibility I do not take lightly. I have big shoes to fill. Danielle has done an outstanding job this last year guiding the club through some pretty rough waters. Danielle has put in place effective and reasonable procedures for dealing with the COVID - 19 pandemic, and we will continue with those as long as it is necessary.
- Before I talk about the coming year I will say a little about the last. I very much enjoyed my year as your Rear Commodore, and I hope we have left the club in better condition than we found it. The dock project was the single biggest capital improvement RRYC has ever undertaken and for the first time (to my knowledge) the club has taken on debt. The good news is that the interest on the debt is low, and we expect to be able to pay it off in ten years entirely from income from slip rental. The dock is now fully rented out with a waiting list.
- Danielle and the board of directors provided much needed support during the construction process and all of the inevitable disruption it created. I am also indebted to Bill Decoste and Ian Ormisher for their invaluable work in putting the bid and contract documents together before we started work, to Pete Clay who handled the bid process itself, and to Ed Peake who provided the basic layout of the slips and got us through the permitting process.
- As with most things that this club does, it could not have been accomplished without the hard work of many members, including particularly the Beavers. To keep the cost down we undertook to do as much of the detail work on the dock ourselves as we could. A partial list of that work includes:
 - Installing a new shed to replace the old house on the dock and outfitting it with storage lockers and electricity;
 - Installing about 80 heavy duty aluminum cleats;
 - Making and installing PVC line hangers for all of the free standing piles;
 - Installing the bases for all of the pedestals;
 - Installing the safety ladders, life rings, the fire extinguishers along the dock;

(continued on page 3)

Comments from the Commodore

(continued from page 2)

- Preparing all of the 6 x 6 support posts for the finger piers;
- Installing all of the slip number plates as well as the boat and owner name plates;
- Building and installing a new structural wall next to the annex to support the new electrical panels that now supply both the club house and the dock;
- Running new Cat 6E Ethernet cable between the annex and the club to provide proper internet WI-FI to the dock;
- Making and installing a new board to support the RRYC welcome sign that used to be on the old dock house. It is now displayed above the roof over the porch, and it also supports the new WI-FI access point that beams the signal down the dock.

As in any project of this size, we failed to anticipate everything that would be required, although I do think we got most of it.

There were two contract change orders:

- The side deck, on which we now have the two BBQ's, was required to cover up the ugly hole under the old dock. I had planned to fill that hole with new dirt and plant grass. After a particular heavy rainy fall, it became evident that the ugly hole was actually the channel through which rainwater from the parking lot flowed to make its way into the creek. Filling it with dirt would have created a permanent lake under the club house;
- Docks of the Bay underestimated the length of the piles that would be required at the end of the dock. The bottom is softer than they thought, and, in an abundance of caution and on their own initiative, they ordered longer piles. Strictly speaking this was their problem because it was a fixed price contract. However DOB, in my opinion, did an outstanding job and were very co-operative during the building process. I agreed, therefore, to meet them halfway on their request for additional compensation.

There were a few other things for which I failed to make allowance. The primary piles are spaced further apart than for a conventional dock, and they all terminate under the dock. This is not an issue for the main stem, but on the tee head I had made inadequate provision for helping boats deal with tide changes when alongside. We resolved that issue in two stages. There are now square 6 x 6 posts on 14-foot centers along the outside of the tee head, secured to both the outside beam and the main piles. This work was all done by the Beavers. It was agreed after construction this was still not adequate, so we now have vertical 8" diameter fiberglass piles driven between the 6 x 6 posts to provide good fendering on 7-foot centers. This work was also done by the Beavers and was, to my knowledge, the first time the Club has taken on its own pile-driving challenge. It took a whole morning and was wonderfully entertaining for all involved.

The dock and the finger piers are 12 inches higher than the old dock and getting in and out of smaller boats at low tide has proved a challenge. Accordingly, where required the Beavers have made and installed wooden ladders to mitigate that particular problem.

(continued on page 4)

Comments from the Commodore

(continued from page 3)

The end result is a dock I am confident (although I am unable to personally guarantee) will still be here 70 years from now with minimal maintenance required. If anyone is interested in the material selection and the structural philosophy of the dock - which is different from anything else in the area - I would be happy to explain.

The final cost was \$435,000, about \$10,000 over the original budget.

A number of other capital projects were completed over the last year:

- The pair of doors between the club house and the porch were replaced;
- The front door of the club house was replaced;
- The porch structure and its deck were painted;
- The walkway down the side of the clubhouse between the parking lot and the access ramp was decked with the same PVC material that was used on the dock. The cost for this was covered by several generous members, and of course the Beavers did all the work.
- I am disappointed we were unable to host our normal complement of monthly socials and for now that loss will continue, but stay tuned.
- This report has turned out longer than I intended so I will leave thoughts for what we should expect next year to next month's Headway which will also provide an opportunity to take advantage of input from the new Board's first meeting.
- To everyone I ask you to stay safe and healthy, to observe the constraints put on us by COVID-19, to enjoy a wonderful Christmas Holiday, and to look forward to better times in the coming year.

From the Vice Commodore

Reflecting on a Sailing Season

By Ian Ormesher

The AGM gives cause for reflection on the sailing season past. Some aspects are relatively easy to assess, and it is clear that we had a successful year in terms of the number of regattas hosted, numbers of boats participating, and the numbers of people volunteering. Most importantly, the anecdotal feedback I have received is that our members enjoyed participating in our sailing at RRYC despite Covid-19.

One of the pleasures of being Vice Commodore is that at the AGM you get to announce the "on water" awards for the year. Like most yacht clubs, we cater for a wide variety of interests and skill levels. We have a number of individuals and teams that excel in the rigor and precision that delivers consistent race success.

(continued on page 5)

Vice Commodore

(continued from page 4)

We have others that enjoy sailing their boats to the best of their ability whilst enjoying the company and companionship of fellow crew members, the “Corinthian spirit”. We have new sailors striving to master skills, explore new places and form sailing friendships through the club. Then we have those that make all of this possible and that thrive from watching others benefit from their endeavors. Our volunteers provide the platform for our club success, and it is through our RRYC members’ efforts that we were able to run races and events safely and enjoyably in a great variety of conditions, and that makes a huge difference to the number of people who want to participate.

Here is a summary of the 2020 awards:

Race Committee Volunteers (3 or more events): Geg & Sue Kirkbride, Bob Damon, Ned Crockett, Fred Pevahouse, George Kuper, Hal Starke;

Cruiser of The Year: Beverly and Joe Oren;

Yachtsman of Year: Sue and Greg Kirkbride;

Commodore’s Cup: Fleet A - Tom Chapman, Fleet B - Doug Lyle;

PHRF High Point: Tom Chapman;

Typhoon High Point: John Congdon;

Typhoon Corinthian: Danielle Kuper and Stephanie Chaufournier;

US Sailing Sportsmanship: Lisa & Greg Shivers;

Sailor of the Year. Tom Chapman.

Congratulations one and all for your achievements throughout the year.

From the Rear Commodore

December 2020

By Kenneth Vincent

Well, the transition is upon us. Many thanks to all who sent in proxies and made our Annual General Meeting a success! We would not have had a quorum without you. As Rear Commodore I look forward to our transition back to normal operations during 2021. A bit of a jigsaw puzzle, and no doubt a challenge, but we will make it happen with your support.

After the Mega-Project of the new dock (All Hail Charles!), our 2021 project list will be a bit less ambitious. Nonetheless, it will add to the quality and comfort of our club. Planned projects include improving the pool area with new furniture, installing better sun screens for the deck, and new decking for the front and side porches to match the dock and pathway to the dock. The Beavers will continue to work their magic from week to week, saving the club thousands of dollars in annual maintenance costs (which are spent on improvements). Here is to a successful 2021!

2020 Annual Meeting

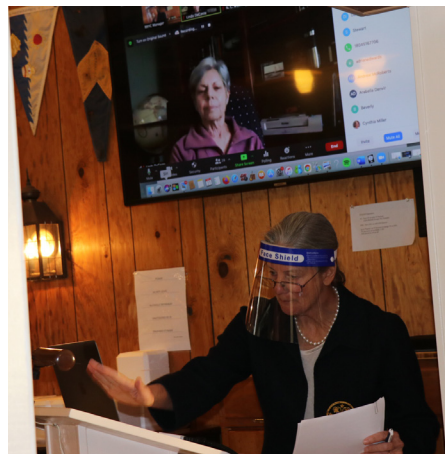
(continued from page 1)

Between the 70 proxies received and the members physically present, a quorum was met. The meeting began at 1600 on Saturday, November 21. In brief, the 2021 budget was approved, with details to be published on the Club's website or available upon request. The proposed slate of new officers and Board directors was endorsed: Commodore Charles Springett; Vice Commodore Ian Ormesher; Rear Commodore Ken Vincent; Secretary Sue Kirkbride; and Treasurer Jesse Swartz, CPA. Glenn Solt, Samantha Van Saun and Tom Wicks were approved for new two-year Director terms; and Leslie Damon, Tom Linville and Michelle Ritter were OK'd for their second year as Directors.



Safely Separated and Masked BOD Conducts Annual Meeting

*Photo by
Tom Wicks.*



*Outgoing Commodore Danielle Kuper
Helms 2020 Annual Meeting*

Our membership chair Ann Vaden reported that membership has risen, with 11 new and in-process memberships bringing the total to 139 families.

Ian summarized the past year's sailing events, noting that the Typhooners and PHRF fleets had been busy, that the Duffy fleet had been active — but oh so quiet, cruising with those silent electric motors — and that, to some extent, the Flying Scots had returned. He observed that the Cruising Fleet activities were less than normal, but that some cruisers did get out there. He noted too that many more spectator boats had been seen at the races, perhaps many escaping for some sunshine and salt air. Importantly, many young families were attending club events and that should bode well for the Club, especially when restrictions have lapsed.

Ian proceeded with the awards marking a rather busy and rewarding year, given the circumstances.

Outgoing Treasurer Art Gilbert noted that the Club was doing well financially, that the loan taken out for the dock construction was being repaid per plan, although income had been reduced due to fewer social activities and other sources of revenue this year. As a sign of optimism, he announced that the annual membership fee would remain the same at only \$840 for 2021. The financial report is available upon request and may be found on the members-only section of the website.

Past Rear Commodore Charles Springett noted that the Club had limited activities during the season, although the pool had been opened and had been a popular activity, and that a few events were held on the open air waterside porch. He thanked Kent White and Diane Owens for their efforts in keeping the Club facilities clean and as safe as possible during this unusual season. A highlight of Charles' presentation was a detailed report, with numerous slides and explanations, on several improvements at the Club, focusing on

(continued on page 7)

2020 Annual Meeting

(continued from page 6)

the handsome new dock. Details may be found elsewhere in this *Headway* and more photos may be found in the photo albums on the club website.

In a humorous tribute to the many “Beavers” and other members who helped improve the dock beyond what the contractor had done, Charles offered an award of a mug entitled “RRYC Pile Butt Brotherhood” festooned with images of members and the home-made manual pile-driving rig), with special thanks to photographer Jackie Allen, our new and first lady Beaver. Lastly, the Volunteer-of-the-Year award went to Brad and Joan Perry for all their work on *Headway*, the website, seminars, for their music and other communications.

The meeting concluded at 1715 with best wishes for safe holidays.



Photo by Tom Wicks.

*“A Cup to Celebrate Another
Beaver Engineering Triumph”*

Cruising Fleet Director Report Cruising 2020

By Jim Bearden

The cruisers managed to pull off quite a few days on the water this year despite the challenge of Covid. The hallmark of our cruising program is camaraderie. We get together on each others boats, help out on each others boats, and explore places new and old together. This year the organized cruises were by necessity a little sparse. Favorite destinations weren’t open and people were a little cautious about setting out for any significant periods of time when rules were changing so rapidly. Our shared cocktail hours, where in the past we set records for the number of people in a cockpit passing snacks and enjoying adult beverages, just were not appropriate. However this is a resilient bunch, and we did pull off a spring cruise to Cape Charles with six boats, a 4th of July cruise to Tabbs Creek with three boats, and a fall cruise to several northern Chesapeake destinations with two club boats and a guest boat.

Our Cruiser’s of the Year, Beverly and Joe Oren, spent a month in the spring and a month in the fall covering spots up and down the Bay. Beverly said she’d never seen the mooring balls in Annapolis as empty as they were this spring. In the Fall, Jim and Kathy Bearden spent three weeks on the bay, with their friends Nancy and Karl Hamm on *Karibee Kat*, taking *Charm* and *KK* to the Solomon Islands, Annapolis, Baltimore, St Michaels, Oxford and a few anchorages along the way and back. *Charm* had some nice winds and was able to test her new in-boom furling. It was a hit. The new system does exactly what we wanted — it keeps Jim off the deck and lets us handle the main from the cockpit.

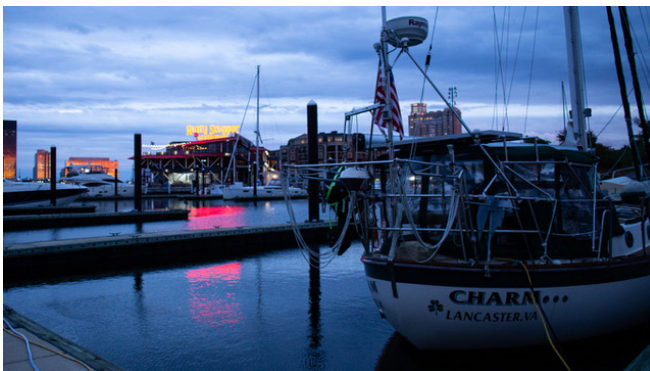


Photo by J. R. Beardon

Baltimore Inner Harbor at Dusk

(continued on page 8)

Cruising Fleet

(continued from page 7)

In contrast to the spring, the moorings at Annapolis were nearly full, and the restaurants, with no boat shows and a limited sailing season, were so very glad to have us. Tom Wicks and Steve Zukor intercepted *Charm* and company in St Michaels for several enjoyable days. Steve and Tom and the Springetts also managed to get to Onancock once it finally opened. So not our normal cruising season, but we were out there.

Tom Wicks has graciously agreed to serve as cruising director next year, *Charm* finally has her new boom, and we all look forward to an active cruising season.

Come on 2021!!



Jim Ferrying Duffy the Intrepid Irish Terrier Puppy Dog

A Cruise in October: Dark n' Stormy Equals Sailor's Delight

By Tom Wicks

Before the winds of November blew cold we embarked on one more cruise — often a fall favorite would be south with the snow birds to Mile 0 and to dinner at the Commodore — but this time we sailed north to St. Michaels and into the “back door”— quiet beautiful San Domingo Creek — as Steve had not taken that shortcut before. We hoped to catch up with Jim and Kathy Bearden aboard *Charm* as they had left earlier and were planning a visit to Havre de Grace before turning back south. After prepping Steve Zukor's 36

(continued on page 9)



Photo by Tom Wicks.

Charm, Jim and Kathy Bearden, from the Bridge of Karibee Kat



Photo by Tom Wicks.

Wetted Bliss from the bridge of Karibee Kat

Cruise in October

(continued from page 8)

Hunter *Wetted Bliss*, veteran cruiser Tom Wicks, aka Mr. Fixit, joined as crew and helped guide the boat through light SE breezes on Monday October 19 to the dock at the Crazy Crab in Reedville. With the Crab closed, but with commercial company aft of us, we ate on board and prepped for the next day's run to Solomons Island YC, their friendly sailors' bar and wonderful restaurants.

Winds were light so with the motor assisting we made good time, got fuel, (but lost the fuel filler cap—plunk!, replaced with a big orange rubber plug) and tied up by 1600, just 30 minutes before their bar opened and Dark n' Stormies flowed along with medical discussions with their resident neurological surgeon, part-time bar tender Art. With a great dinner next door at the Island Hideaway and perhaps another Dark n Stormy, we readied the boat for St Mikes.



Photo by Tom Wicks.

Commercial craft our only company docked at the Crab



Photo by Tom Wicks.

Handsome new dinghy dock St Michaels Harbor

With some thick “pea soup” in the AM (a Mainer would say ‘p’zoop’, perhaps with a salty adjective) and no radar, we scooted across the shipping lane, dodging work boats, into the Choptank river when the fog cleared and we easily found our way to the anchorage on San Domingo, anchoring among other cruisers, both sail and power, mono- and multi-hull, and contacted the Beardens, who had anchored in the harbor at St Mike’s off the Miles River near the Museum along with Karl and Nancy Hamm from YPRCC, their friends since college and owners of the power cat *Karibee Kat*. (Recall, *Karibee Kat* had been generously loaned out to serve as the committee boat for the 2020 Turkey Shoot Regatta!) Once Tom fixed the generator for power and that important morning “joe”, the hardy sailors dinghy-ed into the community dock at the end of West Chew St where there was a convenient

(continued on page 10)

Cruise in October

(continued from page 9)



Dinner at The Galley L-R Tom Wicks, Steve Zukor, Kathy and Jim Bearden (not pictured Nancy and Karl Hamm, 'socially distanced' at the next table.

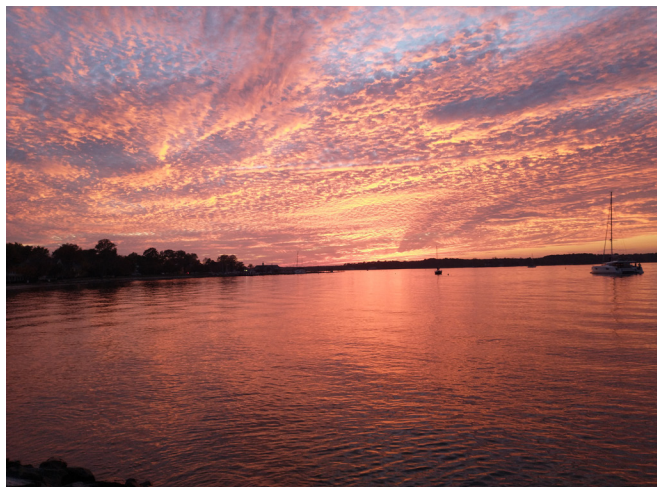


Photo by Tom Wicks.

Walk to dinner on The Strand, Oxford, MD



Photo by Tom Wicks.

Steve Zukor zipped in for a "Nantucket sleigh ride back to Reedville

new floating dinghy dock and a new kayak launch rack (and the seemingly permanently mired sailboat nearby).

Following a short walk into town, we met our fellow sailors for dinner at the Carpenter St. Saloon: casual but good fare and more Dark n' Stormies. After deciding to visit for another day we returned to our boats for a warm quiet night under a new moon and a starry sky. On Thursday, after an emergency craniectomy on our dead electric coffee pot, and its return to life, provided the needed caffeine, we met our friends at Chew St and walked to Foxy's for lunch. Yes, this Foxy's is linked to the original Foxy's in BVI. After an afternoon of relaxing and wandering, we had an early dinner at the Galley on S. Talbot and back to the boat for an early departure to, for us, nearby Oxford. By contrast, the Beardens and Hamms had to sail out of the Miles, around the new Poplar Island and the still-standing Sharps Island Light, into the Choptank, and then up Tred Avon to Oxford.

Again, with early p'zoop, we waited until clearing and motored to the new Safe Harbor Marina (former Brewer's), where the others joined us. With many restaurants closed or restricted with the pandemic, we chose the Morris Inn near the yacht club which was a good, but lovely, walk at sunset along The Strand. Saturday morning, we sailed back to Solomons, enjoyed more consultation with Dr. Art at the bar, but this time took dinner on the Pier--did I mention Dark n' Stormies-- with a beautiful view of the sunset over the Patuxent.

Next day, a Nor'easter had brewed up on the early morning, so while the others chose to relax in the harbor, our intrepid crew zipped on the cockpit enclosure, raised the jib and headed out in the rain for what seemed like a "Nantucket Sleigh ride" downhill to Reedville, this time tying up at the Crazy Crab for an early dinner and appropriate Dark n' Stormies — in line with the best day sailing we had had on this trip!

(continued on page 11)

Cruise in October

(continued from page 10)

When Monday morning arrived we scooted, raising sail but pushing with the iron wind, enjoying some porpoises hunting near us, to get back to Yankee Point for fuel, pump out and a tie-up at Hills Creek.

Our friends made it back safely a day later. A fine cruise, enjoyable time with friends, beautiful ports, sunny days, stormy days and black rum over chilled ginger beer.

Come sailing with us in 2021!



Photo by Tom Wicks.

St Michaels Harbor.



RRYC Ship's Store

By Bob Damon

Due to the closure of the RRYC Clubhouse and suspension of activities, the Ship's Store has not been open. Additionally, we had planned to have the merchandise available at the Annual Meeting but this was changed to a virtual meeting as well so again, in person purchases have not been available. However, Bob Damon, the Ship's Store coordinator, has boxed up the merchandise and has it at his home. If you would like something from the Store for personal use or for Holiday gifts, simply contact Bob either by phone at (804) 245-0079 or email at nomadbob@aol.com, and he will meet with you individually (mask on, of course) for your purchases. We have the following available:

Fleece vests and long sleeve pull-overs and full zips;
Long and short sleeve wicking shirts;
Polo shirts;
Neck ties;
Sweatshirts;

Burgees;
Burgee stickers;
Smile Drinkware cups in 2 sizes;
Can koozies;
Belts;
Several other small items
(please inquire).

All have the RRYC burgee. We also have one hat and some Junior Regatta shirts from 2019 heavily discounted.

Again, contact Bob if you are interested. Here's hoping everyone has Happy Holidays, made all the happier with RRYC gear!

Club Calendar

December - January

December

4 First Friday

17 Board of Directors Meeting 4:15 pm

January

4 First Friday

21 Board of Directors Meeting 4:15 pm

Submitting Items to *The Headway*

All items for publication should be submitted via email to editorrryheadway@gmail.com no later than the 22nd of the prior month (i.e. by December 22 for January publication). For consistency's sake, whenever boat names are included, please italicize them only (not in all caps, not in quotation marks). Please provide photographer name with any photos submitted. For quality, photos should be jpeg files not inserted in a word file. Spell out numbers under 10 or that begin sentences. Use a 12-hour clock for all times (e.g., 4:00 p.m.). Articles should be limited to no more than 1,200 words, or alternately split into multiple parts with a 1,200 word limit per part, to run in contiguous issues of *The Headway*.



The Headway is the official publication of the Rappahannock River Yacht Club
P.O. Box 55, Irvington, VA 22480 804-438-6650 Web site: www.rryc.org

Danielle Kuper, Commodore

Linda Lowell, Editor

Submit articles by the 22nd of the month to editorrryheadway@gmail.com



Date-Sensitive Material

PRESORTED STANDARD
PERMIT NO. 2
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
LOTTSBURG, VA 22511

THE HEADWAY
RAPPAHANNOCK RIVER YACHT CLUB
P.O. BOX 55 • IRVINGTON, VIRGINIA 22480

